

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are in the application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18-22, 24, and 29 are amended.

Applicants note that this application is similar to 09/577,961, filed on the same date, naming Jay Fraser, Norman Kaish and David Durst as inventors. Note that a statutory Double Patenting Rejection was asserted in that application; however, it is believed that the present claims are now sufficiently different to distinguish the claims of that application. The outstanding Office Action in that application cites the following references:

US 5,974,150 (Kaish et al.)

WO 9852077 (Schadt et al.)

WO 9921035 (Karashev et al.)

WO 9953349 (Schadt et al.)

DRAWINGS

Applicants provide herewith corrected drawings.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 9 and 12 are allegedly indefinite for their use of the phrase "bulk portion". Without acceding to the propriety of the rejection, applicants have cancelled the word "bulk" from the claims. It is believed that this amendment overcomes the rejection.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, and 12 are rejected as being anticipated by Kamiyama et al. Applicants do not agree with the original basis for the rejection. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 12 require a selective transfer of anisotropic material (retaining its anisotropic vector properties) to the carrier, and therefore distinguish a system in which the anisotropic state of an existing material is altered, that is, the only the information content is transferred. Claim 8, 9 and 12 already included this limitation, and thus are also distinguished. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 12 are amended to recite that a state of the anisotropic optical property is retained through the transfer.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, and 13 are likewise distinguished.

Claims 18-21 are distinguished from the combination of Kamiyama et al. and Waters by at least the requirement for a hash of the identifications of the random optically readable characteristics and the data pattern be readable by a common imaging system.

Claims 14-17 and 22-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Waters et al. in view of Edwards. Neither Waters et al. nor Edwards teaches or suggests use of a fluorescent pattern, as required by claim 14.

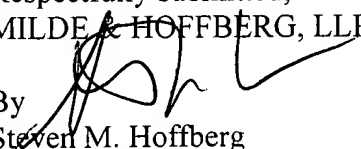
Likewise, neither Waters et al. nor Edwards teaches that the optical sensor, through a common optical path, reads the non-deterministic pattern, the authentication data, and the disk data, wherein the non-deterministic data pattern is separate from the data pattern. In Water et al. for example, the damage pattern is superposed on or alters the data pattern.

Claim 29 provides authenticated sealing tape. It is believed that this preamble alone defines novel and non-obvious subject matter which is outside of the field of the cited references. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested. Amendments are made to claim 29 principally for clarification, and not for patentability.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims, as amended, distinguish the cited references, and are therefore allowable.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned prior to issuing a further office action to discuss and hopefully resolve any outstanding issues.

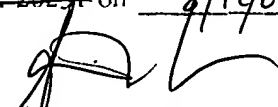
Respectfully submitted,
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